



NEWS RELEASE

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WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE

INDEPENDENCE MAN SENTENCED, KC MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence, Mo., man was sentenced and a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms. Today's sentencing and guilty plea, Graves said, are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Steven S. Jones**, 24, of Independence, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple this morning to one year and one day in federal prison without parole for being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm.

On March 8, 2005, **Jones** pleaded guilty to being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, he admitted that he was in possession of a Mossberg 12-gauge bolt-action shotgun on Nov. 17, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any unlawful user or addict of a controlled substance to be in possession of any firearm. **Jones** was an unlawful user of crack cocaine at the time he possessed the firearm, Graves said.

Jones was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Jan. 11, 2005, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christina Y. Tabor. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Richard A. Pryor**, 42, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple this morning to being a felon in possession of two firearms.

By pleading guilty, **Pryor** admitted that he was in possession of a Sturm Ruger .44-caliber revolver and a New England Firearms .410-gauge shotgun on April 2, 2005. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Pryor** has a 1997 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance, a 1996 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance, a 1994 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon and a 1991 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon and carrying a concealed weapon.

Pryor was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on May 20, 2005, in Kansas City.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow